

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, my question is, under what precedents or practices does the Speaker make such a ruling, and on what does the Speaker rely in terms of what a reasonable time for such inquiry is?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair was trying to have a reasonable time of recognition. The Chair granted an unusually long period of time for discussion. The calendar was no longer really under discussion. The Chair has ruled. The House has important business to move on to.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, parliamentary inquiry before we go to that.

We have on the schedule a number of 5-minute special orders and 1-hour special orders, and I just wonder, do the 1-minutes that are now being requested take precedence over that?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As is customary the Chair intends to recognize 1-minutes first.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

ALLOWING SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY GREATER DISCRETION WITH REGARD TO INSCRIPTIONS

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking and Financial Services be discharged from further consideration of the bill, (H.R. 3301) to amend chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code, to allow the Secretary of the Treasury greater discretion with regard to the placement of the required inscriptions on quarter dollars issued under the 50 States Commemorative Coin Program, and ask its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Delaware?

Mr. WEYGAND. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, I do so for the purpose of an explanation from the sponsor of the bill and a description of the bill.

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. WEYGAND. I yield to the gentleman from Delaware.

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Rhode Island for yielding. This will be very brief.

At the request of the administration, this bill was introduced to authorize the Secretary of the Treasury and the Mint to move statutory wording on the State quarters from one place to another as required by design considerations.

You will recall, we are going to have 50 State quarter bills in the next 10 years. No statutory wording such as "In God we trust" will be removed from the coins or any other statutory wording that is on the coins now. The

bill simply grants more freedom for individual States that propose designs of their own choice.

It is a noncontroversial, technical bill that has been discussed with the minority. You have no objection. It complements the 50 States Commemorative Coin Program Act of 1997 that was passed and signed into law last year.

Mr. WEYGAND. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Delaware?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the bill, as follows:

H.R. 3301

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section 5112(l)(1) of title 31, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

"(C) FLEXIBILITY WITH REGARD TO PLACEMENT OF INSCRIPTIONS.—Notwithstanding subsection (d)(1), the Secretary may select a design for quarter dollars issued during the 10-year period referred to in subparagraph (A) in which—

"(i) the inscription described in the 2d sentence of subsection (d)(1) appears on the reverse side of any such quarter dollars; and

"(ii) any inscription described in the 3d sentence of subsection (d)(1) or the designation of the value of the coin appears on the obverse side of any such quarter dollars."

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I am inquiring regarding the Suspension Calendar. It is my understanding, Mr. Speaker, the Suspension Calendar requires a two-thirds vote; is that correct?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is correct for passage of measures under suspension of the rules.

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, is my understanding that the Suspension Calendar is done usually on a travel day when most of the Members are in the process of getting to Congress, and that is why the vote is not scheduled until 6 o'clock? Is that correct?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. That is not a parliamentary inquiry. That is a matter of scheduling.

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, is it my understanding that under suspension—

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentleman stating another parliamentary inquiry?

Mr. FARR of California. Yes, Mr. Speaker, the parliamentary inquiry is that the debate is limited to 20 minutes?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. That is the Chair's understanding, 20 minutes on each side.

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, and it is my understanding that this is—

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentleman stating another parliamentary inquiry?

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman may state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, is this how the House normally debates substantive legislation?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the standing rules of the House, at the Speaker's discretion motions to suspend the rules are in order on Mondays and Tuesdays.

Mr. FARR of California. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MEMBERS SHOULD SIGN CAMPAIGN FINANCE DISCHARGE PETITION

(Mr. STENHOLM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STENHOLM. Mr. Speaker, with regard to the last discussion regarding the schedule for Monday and the question of whether or not we should have a true discussion of campaign finance reform, let me remind all of my colleagues that we have a discharge petition at the Clerk's desk. It has 187 signatures on it.

If we can get to 218 Members of the House who wish to see campaign finance reform, all ideas, the Shays-Meehan and all other ideas of serious debate on campaign finance reform, all we have to do is line up here at the Clerk's desk and get 218 signatures, and the regular order of the House will prevail, and we will be able to have the kind of discussion for campaign finance reform that I believe the overwhelming majority of Members on both sides of the aisle really would like to see.

But it is up to us now. Since the leadership has ruled, rather arbitrarily, on how we shall proceed, it is up to Members of the House to use regular House order and sign the discharge petition.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

(Mr. DOGGETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, in a Congress that has been full of outrageousness, what we have seen here this afternoon represents by far the greatest outrage of all.

To imagine that the Republican leadership, as announced by the majority leader, could get together in a secret meeting and plot to deny the American people an opportunity to have a bipartisan discussion and debate about how to clean up our corrupt campaign finance system is incredible.

The majority leader has placed this matter on the docket for action on a